#1

NOW

MARVEL

#1

THE ULTIMATES 2

EWING • FOREMAN • BROWN

Not long ago, Earth's most powerful heroes came together to solve the biggest problems in the universe.

They called themselves the Ultimates.

But a mission that began with curing Galactus of his need to devour planets ended in ruins when members of the team came to blows over Captain Marvel's use of predictive justice.

The government shut the Ultimates down. Their dream of fixing the universe was killed.

Or was it...?

THE ULTIMATES 2

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EVERYTHING IS SCREAMING.

ETERNITY.
THE MULTIVERSE.
EVERYTHING THAT IS KNOWN.

SHACKLED AND HELPLESS.
HELD IN CHAINS IN THE ENDLESS VOID.

SCREAMING.

AND BEHIND THE PERSONIFICATION OF ALL THAT IS.
JUST OUT OF SIGHT.

SOMETHING ELSE TAKES HIDEOUS FORM. AND LAUGHS.

AND REACHES.

AND TOUCHES.

AND LEECHES.

LEECHING ENERGY.

LEECHING JOY.
LEECHING HOPE.

THE FORCES THAT BRING LIFE TOGETHER WEAKEN AND CORRODE.

WAR AND HORROR SPREAD THROUGH SPACE AND TIME LIKE A SLOW POISON.

STRENGTH WEAKENS. BAD BECOMES WORSE.
THE BALANCE TREMBLES, READY TO FALL.

AND ETERNITY SCREAMS.

AND SCREAMS.

BUT WHO COULD EVER HEAR?

WHO COULD EVER SEE?

WHO COULD BEAR THE SIGHT?

MY GOD...

WARNING.

KADESH BASE.
UNDERSEA SCIENCE FORTRESS
INSIDE THE MARIANAS TRENCH.

WARNING. INPUT FEED OVERLOADING.

OH, NOT NOW--

NOREPINEPHRINE LEVELS APPROACHING CRITICAL. WARNING. WARNING.

INITIATING SAFETY CUTOUT. SYSTEM SHUTTING DOWN.

DR. ADAM BRASHEAR.
CODENAME: "BLUE MARVEL."
LIVING ANTIMATTER REACTOR.
SUPER-SCIENTIST.

PLEASE REPORT TO MED BAY FOR EXAMINATION REGARDING POSSIBLE PSYCHIC TRAUMA--

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. NO NEED TO FUSS, COMPUTER.

I'M FINE.

IT'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ADAM.

MONICA RAMBEAU.
CODENAME: "SPECTRUM."
ABLE TO TRANSFORM INTO ANY FORM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY.

SO AM *I*, FRANKLY.

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THAT THING, ANYWAY?

THIS? IT'S A KIND OF ***PSIONIC RESONATOR***. SOMETHING I BUILT TO HELP EXPAND MY ***PERCEPTIONS***--MY ***CONSCIOUSNESS***.

I WANTED TO SEE THE WORLD THE WAY ***YOU*** SEE IT.

THE WAY ***I*** SEE IT?

SURE. YOU'RE LIVING ***ENERGY***--EVEN IN YOUR HARD-LIGHT "HUMAN" FORM. ***THINK*** ABOUT IT.

HOW DOES ***LIGHT*** ENTER YOUR EYES WHEN YOUR EYES ***ARE*** LIGHT? HOW DO ***ANY*** OF YOUR SENSES WORK?

MY WORKING THEORY IS THAT YOUR MIND ***AUTOMATICALLY TRANSLATES*** A FORM OF ***COSMIC AWARENESS*** INTO SOMETHING ***APPROXIMATING*** NORMAL HUMAN SENSES.

SO YOU ***DON'T*** HEAR, OR SEE, OR FEEL--IN THE ***NORMAL*** SENSE. BUT ALL THE ***SAME***...

...YOU ***KNOW***.

IT MIGHT EVEN BE CONNECTED TO YOUR ***PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY***--

IT ***MIGHT*** BE A LITTLE CREEPY TO ***THINK*** ABOUT, ADAM.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE BEING ONE MORE ***EXPERIMENT*** FLOATING AROUND YOUR ***LABORATORY***...

WELL... *LIFE* IS AN EXPERIMENT.

THAT'S IT. KEEP *DIGGING.*

SERIOUSLY, IT IS.

A GRAND AND NEVER-ENDING *OBSERVATION* OF THE *RICHNESS OF THE UNIVERSE.* THE LABORATORY OF *EVERYWHERE,* CONSTANTLY SHOWING US NEW *TRUTHS,* NEW *PATTERNS.*

SCIENCE IS LOOKING AT THE *MAGIC* IN THE WORLD... THE *BEAUTY...*

...AND SEEING THE *INNER* BEAUTY THAT MAKES IT WORK.

THAT MAKES US FALL IN *LOVE* WITH IT.

YOU'VE GOT A WAY WITH A *PHRASE,* DR. BRASHEAR. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

DID YOU GET THAT FROM YOUR *MACHINE?*

NO. I SAW... SOMETHING *ELSE.*

AND IF YOU *ARE* CONNECTED TO THE COSMOS... MAYBE *YOU'VE* SEEN IT, TOO.

I'VE...

...HAD *DREAMS...* OF...

LET ME GUESS.

CONNER SIMS.
CODENAME: "ANTI-MAN."
ADAM BRASHEAR'S BEST FRIEND AND WORST ENEMY.
A BEING OF VAST COSMIC POWER. MISSING IN ACTION...

DREAMS OF A *CAGE* AROUND *EVERYTHING.*

HELLO, ADAM.

I WAS *RIGHT* ALL ALONG.

CONNER?

...UNTIL NOW.

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE *TRISKELION*-- I TRIED TO *FIND* YOU, BUT--

AFTER WHAT *HAPPENED?* YOU MEAN AFTER MY *POWER* RAN OUT OF CONTROL? AFTER I *KILLED TWO MEN?*

AFTER YOU TOLD ME I WAS *SAFE?*

THAT I *COULD NEVER* HURT ANYONE *AGAIN?*

THAT WAS *THANOS,* CONNER.

HE *PUSHED* YOU TO LET THE POWER LOOSE-- IT'S *NOT YOUR FAULT--*

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S *YOURS.*

I *OWE* YOU THIS, ADAM--

YOU'RE OWED PLENTY *YOURSELF.*

AARRGHH!

MONICA, WAIT--

AAAAHH--

YEAH.

WAIT IN *THERE*, MONICA.

NO!

I'M ALL *RIGHT*-- BUT--

IT'S SOME KIND OF SUPER-DENSE *ENERGY SCREEN*--

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, CONNER!

I'VE *TRIED* WITH YOU--I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE TRYING TO *HELP* YOU--

--BUT I HAVE MY *LIMITS*.

YOU COME INTO MY *HOME*? ATTACK MY LOVED ONES *AGAIN*?

NOT-- *UNHH!*

--NOT *THEM*--

--I'M ATTACKING *YOU*.

ANOTHER SHELL...?

HOW ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?

SOMEONE DID MORE THAN *TRY*, ADAM...

"...AND HE WANTS TO SAY *HELLO.*"

THE VIDALIA DINER.

Vidalia diner

EVEN WHEN IT'S BUSY, IT'S NOT BUSY.

THAT'S WHY SHE CHOSE IT.

FRESHEN YOUR COFFEE, MA'AM?

THANKS.

YOU KNOW-- I'M *SO* SORRY, I KNOW YOU MUST GET THIS ALL THE *TIME*...BUT YOU LOOK *EXACTLY* LIKE CAPTAIN--

CAPTAIN *MARVEL?*

I, AH, I *DO* GET THAT A LOT.

COL. CAROL DANVERS. CODENAME: "CAPTAIN MARVEL." CURRENTLY INCOGNITO!

WELL, I NEARLY HAD *KITTENS* WHEN YOU WALKED IN...

I *SWEAR,* I'VE GOT TO BE CAROL DANVERS' BIGGEST FAN...

REALLY?

'CAUSE I THINK SHE'S KIND OF A B--

BRENDA!

LUKE CHARLES. I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE.

TRAFFIC WAS *INSANE.*

...

KING T'CHALLA OF WAKANDA.
ROYAL TITLE: "BLACK PANTHER."
ALSO CURRENTLY INCOGNITO.

...NO PROBLEM.

I MEAN, YOU ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE YOUR *PROFILE PICTURE*, SO THAT'S *SOMETHING*, RIGHT?

OOH! *ONLINE DATE*, HUH? EXCITING!

HOW 'BOUT I GIVE YOU FOLKS SOME *PRIVACY?*

THANKS *SO* MUCH.

OH, AND CAN I GET A GRANDE MOCHA *LATTE*, NOT *TOO* MOCHA, VEGAN MILK AND CINNAMON? THANK YOU!

I...I GUESS...?

AND HERE WE ARE.

NICELY *DONE*, BY THE WAY.

I WAS A *SPY*, T'CHALLA. I DIDN'T LOSE THE SKILLS WITH THE *MEMORIES.*

ANYWAY, SHE'S OUT OF *EARSHOT*, AND YOUR *CINNAMON VEGAN* MONSTROSITY'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE...

...SO WHY NOT *START* BY TELLING ME WHY YOU STABBED ME IN THE *BACK?*

I HAVE SEEN *TOO MUCH*, CAPTAIN MARVEL.

I CAN NO LONGER DEFEND *ANY* OF THIS--

THAT WAS WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR TO *EVERYBODY* THAT IF WAKANDA *WAS* GOING TO ALLY WITH THE U.S., IT WOULDN'T BE VIA THE *ULTIMATES*.

AFTER THAT, IT WAS JUST *MATH*.

TERMINATED

YOU MURDERED THE ULTIMATES PROGRAM WITH A *WORD*, T'CHALLA. AND I STILL DON'T KNOW *WHY*-- NOT *REALLY*.

PUTTING SPIDER-MAN IN A *ROOM* FOR A FEW DAYS? *THAT* WAS THE HILL YOU KILLED US ON?

LIKE YOU WOULDN'T *EXECUTE* HIM *TOMORROW* IF YOU THOUGHT WAKANDA WAS IN--

COLONEL...

...PLEASE.

DO NOT PRETEND YOU TRULY *KNOW* ME.

AND DO NOT *IMAGINE* YOU KNOW WHAT I WOULD *SACRIFICE*--WHAT I AM SACRIFICING EVEN *NOW*--FOR THE SAKE OF *WAKANDA*.

FOR IF YOU *DID*...YOU WOULD NOT SLEEP *SOUNDLY* IN THE KNOWLEDGE.

I *PROMISE* YOU THAT.

TOUCHED A *NERVE?*

...

TROUBLE AT HOME.

AND NO. I SUPPOSE MY DECISION WAS NOT *ENTIRELY* ABOUT SPIDER-MAN.

OR ULYSSES. OR EVEN THE *FUTURE.*

IT WAS ABOUT *YOU* AND *I.*

WHEN WE *FORMED* THE ULTIMATES...WE CREATED A SPECIFIC *FORCE* FOR A SPECIFIC *ROLE.* A SPECIFIC *PURPOSE.*

SOLVING PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY *BECAME* PROBLEMS--

BUT NOT JUST *ANY* PROBLEMS.

GALACTUS. THE *INFINAUT. THANOS.* PROBLEMS OF *COSMIC SCOPE,* THAT COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH *ANY OTHER WAY.*

PROBLEMS THERE COULD BE *NO* HUMAN ANSWER FOR.

THE MOMENT YOU *CHANGED* THAT--THE MOMENT THE ULTIMATES BECAME A FORCE TO *AID* YOU IN YOUR *POLITICAL GOALS--*

--THE MOMENT WE BECAME A SUPER-TEAM IN THE *TRADITIONAL SENSE--*

--I HAD TO *END* IT.

WE WERE SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL *NOT* TO DO SO.

RIGHT. EXCEPT NOW THAT YOU'VE *ENDED* IT...YOU WANT IT TO *START* AGAIN. ON *YOUR* TERMS.

THAT'S WHAT THIS LITTLE SECRET MEETING'S *ABOUT*, ISN'T IT?

THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION IS *GONE.*

I FEAR THE ULTIMATE *PROBLEMS* ARE *NOT.*

"WHEN WE FOUGHT *GALACTUS*--I TOUCHED HIS *MIND* FOR A MOMENT. DURING *TRANSLOCATION.*

"I SAW HIS TRANSFORMATION TO THE LIFEBRINGER IN MY *DREAMS* THAT NIGHT.

"AND ON THE DARK NIGHTS *SINCE*...WHEN THE CROWN HANGS *HEAVIEST*, WHEN I HEAR MY FATHER'S VOICE DAMNING ME *ANEW*..."

...I HAVE HAD *OTHER* DREAMS.

DREAMS OF *CHAINS* AND *CAGES. NIGHTMARES* OF THE SKY ITSELF *SCREAMING.*

YOU HAVE THE POWERS OF THE *FIRST* CAPTAIN MARVEL, COLONEL. ON SOME LEVEL, YOU ARE IN *TUNE* WITH THE GREAT ALL.

THIS TERRIBLE *ANXIETY* YOU FEEL.

THE *FEAR* FOR US THAT LED YOU TO COME TO ME IN THE *FIRST* PLACE. THAT *FORMED* THE ULTIMATES.

WHERE DID IT *COME* FROM?

WHAT DO YOU DREAM?

...

I...

...IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE ULTIMATES IS ***DONE***, T'CHALLA.

EVEN IF I ***TRUSTED*** YOU--OR IF YOU TRUSTED ***ME***--IT'S ***OVER***. ***WE'RE*** OVER. BY ORDER OF THE ***PRESIDENT***.

IF THE FIVE OF US ALL GET ***TOGETHER*** AGAIN, AS A TEAM--OR, HELL, EVEN FOR ***PIZZA***--

--I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S ***TREASON***. FOR ***ME***, AT LEAST.

GYRICH WOULD PITCH A FIT. I'D LOSE ***ALPHA FLIGHT***--EVERYTHING I'VE ***BUILT***. GOD KNOWS ***WHAT*** THEY'D DO WITH YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO SAY "***WAR***," BUT...

WAR? GOSH, WITH ME?

MILD-MANNERED LUKE CHARLES?

OH GOD, PLEASE DON'T TURN BACK INTO LUKE CHARLES.

YOUR ACCENT'S FLAWLESS AND IT'S INCREDIBLY CREEPY--

OOH! SPEAKING OF CREEPY, HAVE YOU SEEN STRANGER THINGS?

IT IS SUCH A GOOD SHOW...

WORST FIRST DATE EVER.

LOOK, I GET THE POINT, CLARK KENT. YOU KNOW HOW TO HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT.

AND YES, THE ULTIMATE PROBLEMS STILL NEED SOLVING. AND I'M HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR INTEL IF YOU FIND ONE.

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST-- JUST BREAK US AND PUT US BACK TOGETHER WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT. YOU CAN'T.

HOW CAN I EVER TRUST YOU AGAIN, T'CHALLA?

YOUR TRUST ISN'T REQUIRED, CAPTAIN MARVEL.

WHAT...?

BUT *YOU* ARE.

SEE...THE *BOSS* WANTS A *WORD.*

OH, CRAP.

ANTI-MAN.

THIS IS BAD. LOOKS LIKE HE *ALREADY* VISITED *ADAM* AND *MONICA.*

HE'S GOT THEM IN *COCOONS* OR SOMETHING--

INDEED.

HOWEVER, *WE* HAVE *HIM,* COLONEL. THE PANTHER IS *ALWAYS* PREPARED.

I HAVE SPENT *MONTHS* STUDYING ANTI-MAN'S UNIQUE *ENERGY FREQUENCY--*

--AND FORMULATING A UNIQUE *RESPONSE.*

MY *ENERGY DAGGER* WILL CREATE A *CHAIN REACTION CASCADE* WITHIN HIM--AND IN *MOMENTS*--

--IT WILL DO *NOTHING.*

THINGS HAVE *CHANGED,* PANTHER.

...

INTERESTING.

I SERVE A *HIGHER POWER.* A HIGHER *CALLING.*

AND FROM NOW ON...

...SO WILL *YOU.*

YOU'VE BEEN *EXPOSED,* DESPITE HIS EFFORTS TO *PROTECT* YOU.

YOU'VE BECOME *AWARE.*

JUST LIKE ME.

AND JUST LIKE ME...YOU'VE BEEN *DRAFTED.* TO FIGHT IN A *WAR.*

THE WAR OF *EXISTENCE VERSUS OBLIVION...* THE *INSIDE* VERSUS THE *OUTSIDE...*

TAA II.
THE WORLD-SHIP.

THE WAR FOR *EVERYTHING* THAT IS.

UNBELIEVABLE.

HE--HE TRANSPORTED US ACROSS THE UNIVERSE WITH A THOUGHT--

HE DID AS I WISHED.

FOR I REQUIRE *NEW HERALDS*-- HERALDS OF *LIFE ITSELF.*

HEROES TO FIGHT THE *INFINITE CRIME*-- AND *UNCHAIN THE COSMOS!*

AS A *NEW REALITY* DAWNS-- WILL YOU *SAVE* IT? WILL YOU *GUARD* THE FLICKERING FLAME OF BEING AGAINST THE *ULTIMATE DARKNESS?*

DO YOU STAND...WITH GALACTUS?

GALACTUS.
THE LIFEBRINGER.
SEEDER OF WORLDS.

YOU--YOU *KNEW* ABOUT THIS, DIDN'T YOU?

ALL YOUR TALK OF TOUCHING GALACTUS' *MIND*-- REFORMING THE *ULTIMATES*--

CAROL--I GIVE MY *WORD*, I DID NOT--

YOUR *WORD?*

AFTER *EVERYTHING*, YOU WANT *ME* TO TAKE *YOUR WORD?*

YOU KNOW IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A *PALETTE SWAP* TO MAKE ME FORGET ALL THE WORLDS GALACTUS *DESTROYED*, RIGHT?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D *EVER* FIGHT FOR--

YOU *WOULDN'T.*

YOU'D BE FIGHTING FOR ME. IN THE ONLY FIGHT THAT MATTERS.
WELCOME TO THE ULTIMATES.
AMERICA CHAVEZ.
CODENAME: "MS. AMERICA."
PARAMEDIC FOR THE MULTIVERSE...
...LEADER OF THE ULTIMATES.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS ULTIMATES² IN... WHAT DO YOU DREAM?

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COMING THIS YEAR IN

THE ULTIMATES 2

NOTHING DIES...

CAROL DANVERS--

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

BEHOLD.

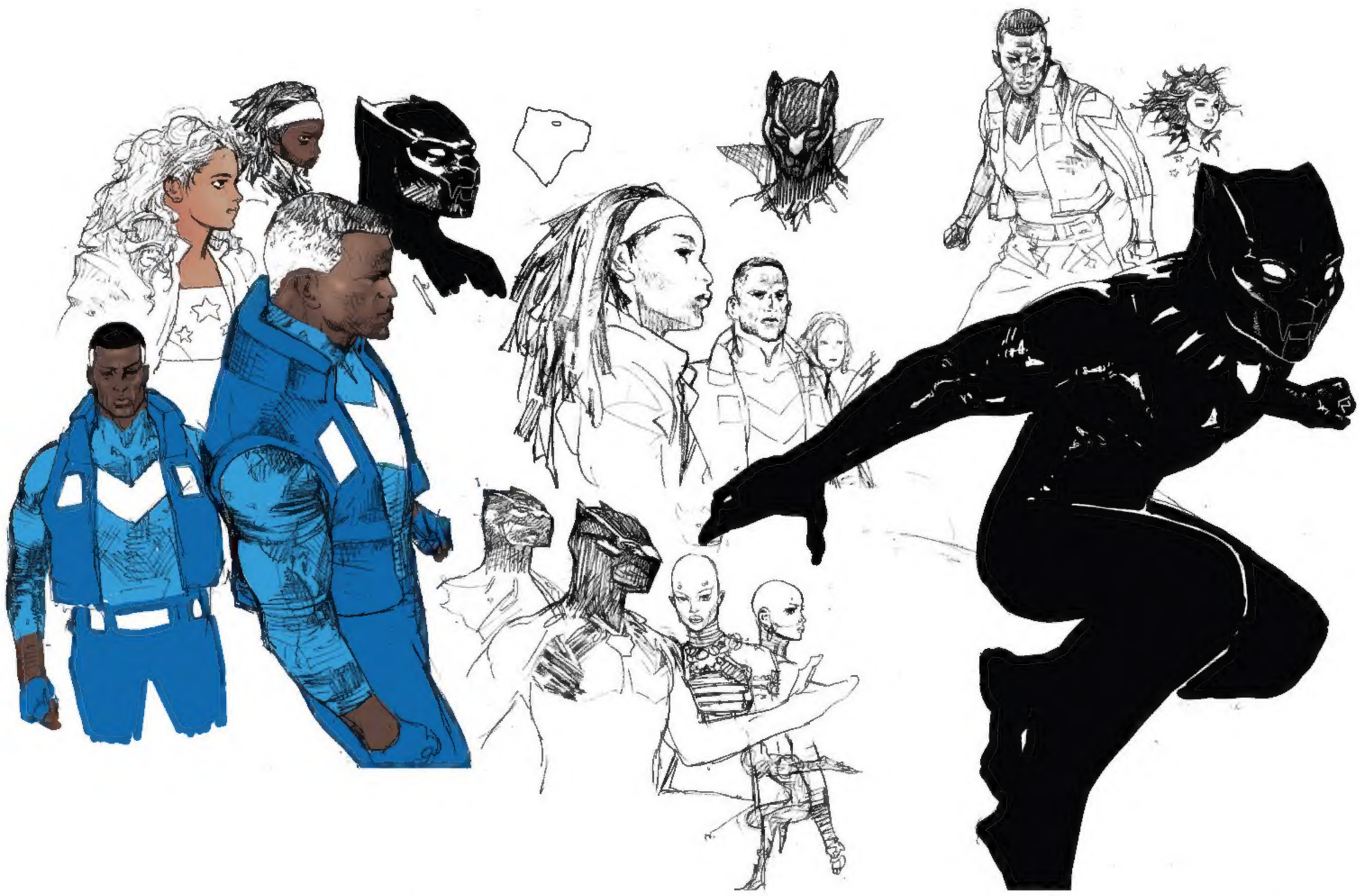
THE *ULTIMATE* UNIVERSE.

THE ULTI-MAILS

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM (MARK "OKAY TO PRINT")

Welcome to the bizarre and fantastical world of the ULTIMATES--and for those who are returning, welcome back! We've done our best to kick off what we've been referring to as season two of ULTIMATES with an issue that can speak to readers new and old, and we hope you enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed making it!

Ordinarily, this would be the spot where our delightful ULTIMATES² scribe, Al Ewing, would answer your letters, but since we don't have enough to print yet, we decided to use this space to showcase our imaginative, innovative and downright psychedelic new artist, Travel Foreman. So enjoy these awesome character sketches--and send us some letters!



ADDITIONAL READING:

TO FIND OUT HOW THE ULTIMATES BEGAN--AND HOW THEY FELL APART--CHECK OUT *ULTIMATES #1-12*. ALL ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE DIGITALLY ON COMICSTORE.MARVEL.COM, AND THE FIRST FIVE ISSUES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE *ULTIMATES 1: START WITH THE IMPOSSIBLE* TRADE.

NEXT:

ZONE